

OCTOBER 2005

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NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSE

THE CITY'S SIX FIRE STATIONS CELEBRATE National Fire Prevention Week with an open house on **Saturday, October 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Fire, Police and Public Works staff will be on hand, along with lots of activities, demonstrations and tours. Free t-shirts and temporary tattoos will be available for kids. For more information, call 952-563-4801.

Visit your local fire station
Saturday, October 15
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

STATION NO.	ADDRESS
1	10 W. 95th St.
2	10601 Xerxes Ave. S.
3	2050 E. 86th St.
4	4201 W. 84th St.
5	10540 Bush Lake Road
6	8601 Lakeview Road

PREPARING FOR WINTER CHIMNEY FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

CREOSOTE IS AN UNAVOIDABLE BY-product of burning wood in stoves and fireplaces. This combustible substance builds up in connectors and chimney flues to create a situation that may cause a chimney fire. The use of dry, seasoned firewood assists in reducing creosote but does not guarantee that creosote will not accumulate.

Before using your fireplace or wood-burning stove this winter, have your chimney vents inspected and cleaned by a professional chimney sweep. While fireplace logs that purport to clean chimneys might seem like an easy solution, tests have proven they are not effective. For more information, call Fire Marshal Robert James at 952-563-8933.



A BLOOMINGTON TREASURE ENJOY NINE MILE CREEK'S FALL BEAUTY

THOUGH IT IS ACTUALLY 15 MILES LONG, NINE MILE CREEK GOT ITS NAME from Army Cavalry based at Fort Snelling who traveled Old Shakopee Trail. Traveling to the Village of Chief Shakopee, the creek crossed Old Shakopee Trail nine miles from the fort. It was a natural spot to take a break and water the horses. Home to a variety of wildlife and vegetation, Nine Mile Creek is still a great place to take in the beauty of fall.

Enjoy a leisurely walk along the paved trail between Moir Park, located at 104th Street and Morgan Avenue South, to the 106th Street Bridge. Over the past year, the City's Parks Maintenance Section has upgraded some lower areas of unpaved trail that continue to the Minnesota River. Additional gravel surfacing was added for a safer and more enjoyable path.



LYLE BERG BRIDGE OPENS KEY LINK TO AMERICAN BOULEVARD COMPLETED

AN IMPORTANT LINK CONNECTING EAST and west American Boulevard, the parallel arterial to I-494, is now complete. A ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 12 celebrated the completion of the Lyle Berg Bridge over I-35W.

The City of Bloomington has pursued the construction of the bridge for decades. The project was almost constructed in 1985, but the Minnesota Department of Transportation put the project on hold to ensure that the bridge would accommodate eventual improvements to I-35W and I-494. Bloomington Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates said the parallel arterial concept has definitively shown its need as traffic volumes and congestion increase in the third-largest employment corridor in Minnesota.

American Boulevard will provide Bloomington residents, workers and visitors with an alternative way to travel across the community and will also help ease congestion on I-494. Bloomington has been planning for the parallel route for more than 36 years. The bridge is named after retired Bloomington Traffic and Transportation Engineer Lyle Berg. Berg, who served the City from 1964 - 2000, was a champion of American Boulevard from the beginning.

"Lyle's vision for this important roadway system lead to the development of American Boulevard," Public Works Director Charles Honchell said. "Berg's foresight, leadership and tenacity made the concept a reality."

"Early on, it was very apparent for Bloomington, and for the region, that there should be a parallel route to I-494," Berg said. "Now and in the future, particularly as development and density increases with more people working and shopping,



American Boulevard will be a great advantage for people to get to and from their destinations."

The 387-foot bridge includes two westbound and two eastbound lanes, a concrete median, and eight-foot wide bike and pedestrian paths in each direction. Improvements beyond the bridge will also include protected left turn lanes.

"The bridge will serve our community for three decades in a highly satisfactory manner," Berg said. "It is a good design that could be modified to accommodate future traffic as necessary."

The \$12.5 million bridge was completed in one year and within budget. A federal grant funded 80 percent of construction. The City of Bloomington and the Minnesota Department of Transportation

also supported the project.

Learn more about American Boulevard and other street construction projects on the City's Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Construction projects.

Mayor Gene Winstead and retired Traffic and Transportation Engineer Lyle Berg perform the honors at the Lyle Berg Bridge Ribbon-Cutting.

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1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
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